

New York State Green Procurement Program
Response to Comments on

Proposed Specification on Sorbents

Background: A specification on sorbents was given tentative approval by the Executive Order 4 Interagency Committee on April 15, 2022. This was part of a package of cleaning products specifications designed to align with the work done on the new multi-state green cleaning contract (FAC118) led by the State of Massachusetts.

Commenting Entities: Clean and Healthy New York, Environmental Advocates of New York, Green Inside and Out, New York League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Issues Raised by These Organizations During the Comment Period:

1. Specify fragrance free products

Comments:

In this specification, and all other specifications where applicable, specify fragrance-free products.

Response:

This is already in the tentatively approved specification.

Recommendation:

Leave as is.

2. Ensure recycled materials are returned to the same kind of use and not downcycled to a disposable product

Comments:

The GreenNY Council should make efforts to ensure that recycled materials are returned to the same type of use case and are not downcycled into a disposable product.

Response:

Creating a truly circular economy is a goal of the GreenNY Council through efforts to “close the loop” by creating demand for products that contain recycled content. The Council appreciates the commentors mentioning this overall goal, however for this specification is for a disposable product where using recycled content is more preferable than using non-recycled content. The concept of creating a closed loop system for materials such as metals and plastics will be taken into account when future specifications are created.

Recommendation:

Leave specification as is and look for opportunities to incorporate more recycled content into specifications for products where true circularity can be created.